Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Limited (BHPV) have incurred a huge loss of Rs. (-)158.81 crores during the year 2003-04 and the net worth of the company has become negative. It has to be referred to BIFR under the provisions of SICA Act. Future of BHPV will be decided in line with the stipulation of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government in respect of Public Enterprises.

(b) The outstanding statutory dues of the employees of BPCL and BHPV as on 31.07.2004 were Rs. 14.07 crores and Rs. 45.72 crores respectively. Government had released a budgetary support of Rs. 14.37 crores to BPCL on 31.03.2004 for settlement of outstanding statutory dues of the employees as on 31.12.2002.

(c) The companies are not able to settle the dues on account of acute financial crunch.

Education policy for disabled children

1210. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to fomulate a comprehensive education policy for children with disability;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) by when the said education policy is likely to be formulated and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, as modified in 1992 envisages integration of the physically and mentally handicapped with the general community as equal partners, to prepare them for normal growth and to enable them to face life with courage and confidence. The Policy envisages a number of measures in this regard.

A centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Education for disabled Children (IEDC) was launched in 1974 by the then Department of social Welfare and was later transferred to the Department of Education in 1982-83. The Scheme provides educational opportunities for disabled children in

common schools to facilitate their integration and ultimate retention in the general school system. The scheme is being implemented through the Education Department of State Governments and UT Administrations as well as through Non-Governmental Organisations. Under the Scheme of IEDC, 100% assistance is being provided under various components for education of children suffering from mild to moderate disabilities in common schools. The components include educational aids, assistive equipment, salaries for special teachers and facilities for children with disability.

Vocational education

†1211. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that setting up of a separate Ministry is needed for development and expansion of vocational education in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing the scheme of Vocationalisation of education, Based on the recommendation of various review Committees the scheme is being revised.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Scholarships and Bank Loans for Higher Studies

1212. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arrangements have been made to provide scholarships and bank loans for getting higher education from the institutions affiliated with his Ministry during the current year;

(b) if so, the number of students provided with the scholarships and bank loans in Assam during the year 2003-04; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.